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General Assembly

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**Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

# Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

**Note by the Secretary-General**

## I. Introduction

1. The attention of the Special Committee is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, listed in sections II to IV below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 2000.

## II. General resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full

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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The plan stated that the Special Committee with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

In addition, the Special Committee was to continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of the administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, was to make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

8. At its fifty-fourth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/91 of 6 December 1999, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 1999, including the programme of work envisaged for 2000,[3] and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and, in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, including through the dispatch of visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

(d) To develop a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories before the end of 2000 to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, including resolutions on specific Territories;

(e) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

(g) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories commencing the week beginning 25 May.[4]

In addition, the Assembly reaffirmed that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories were an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperage with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate United Nations visiting missions to the Territories, and also called upon the administering Powers that had not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2000.

9. As at 1 January 2000, the Special Committee was composed of the following 24 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

## III. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific items considered by the Special Committee in 1999

10. In addition to resolution 54/91, the Assembly adopted 10 other resolutions and 4 decisions relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 1999, which are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Special Committee's programme of work for 2000.

# A. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific Territories

## 1. Resolutions

| *Territory* | *Resolution number* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Western Sahara | 54/87 | 6 December 1999 |
| New Caledonia | 54/88 | 6 December 1999 |
| Tokelau | 54/89 | 6 December 1999 |
| American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands | 54/90 A and B | 6 December 1999 |

## 2. Decisions

| *Territory* | *Decision number* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Falkland Islands (Malvinas) | 54/412 | 4 November 1999 |
| East Timor | 54/422 | 6 December 1999 |
| Gibraltar | 54/423 | 6 December 1999 |

# B. Resolutions concerning other items

| *Title* | *Resolution number* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations | 54/83 | 6 December 1999 |
| Economic and other activities which affect the interest of the peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories | 54/84 | 6 December 1999 |
| Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations | 54/85 | 6 December 1999 |
| Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories | 54/86 | 6 December 1999 |
| Dissemination of information on decolonization | 54/92 | 6 December 1999 |

# C. Decision concerning other questions

| *Title* | *Decision number* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration | 54/421 | 6 December 1999 |

# IV. Other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

11. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below.

| *Title* | *Resolution number* | *Date of adoption* |
|---|---|---|
| Financing of the United Nations Mission in East Timor | 54/20 | 29 October 1999 |
| Oceans and the law of the sea | 54/31 | 24 November 1999 |
| Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic | 54/35 | 24 November 1999 |
| Questions relating to information | 54/82 A and B | 6 December 1999 |
| Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for East Timor | 54/96 H | 15 December 1999 |
| Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action | 54/141 | 17 December 1999 |
| International Decade of the World's Indigenous People | 54/150 | 17 December 1999 |
| Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination | 54/151 | 17 December 1999 |
| Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance | 54/154 | 17 December 1999 |
| Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination | 54/155 | 17 December 1999 |
| The right to development | 54/175 | 17 December 1999 |
| Question of East Timor | 54/194 | 17 December 1999 |
| Convention on Biological Diversity | 54/221 | 22 December 1999 |
| Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States | 54/224 | 22 December 1999 |
| Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor | 54/246 | 23 December 1999 |
| Programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 | 54/247 | 23 December 1999 |
| Pattern of conferences | 54/248 | 23 December 1999 |
| Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 | 54/249 | 23 December 1999 |
| Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 | 54/250 | 23 December 1999 |

*Notes*

[1] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-fourth sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/51/23); ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23); ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23); and A/54/23.

[2] A/54/23 (Parts I-III) (to be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23).

[3] Ibid., Part I, chap. I, sect. J.

[4] Resolution 2911 (XXVII).